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The dogmatist is sure of every thing, and the *skeptick* believes nothing. *Watts's Logic.*
SKEPTICAL. *adj.* [from *skeptick*.] Doubtful; pretending to universal doubt.

May the Father of mercies confirm the *skeptical* and wavering minds, and so prevent us that stand fast, in all our doings, and further us with his continual help. *Bentley.*
SKEPTICISM. *n. f.* [*skeptisme*, French, from *skeptick*.] Universal doubt; pretence or profession of universal doubt.

I laid by my natural diffidence and *skepticism* for a while, to take up that dogmatick way. *Dryden.*
SKETCH. *n. f.* [*schœula*, Latin.] An outline; a rough draught; a first plan.

I shall not attempt a character of his present majesty, having already given an imperfect *sketch* of it. *Addison.*
 As the lightest *sketch*, if justly trac'd,
 Is by ill colouring but the more disgrac'd,
 So by false learning is good sense defac'd. *Pope.*

TO SKETCH. *v. n.* [from the noun.]
 1. To draw, by tracing the outline.

If a picture is daubed with many glaring colours, the vulgar eye admires it; whereas he judges very contemptuously of some admirable design *sketched* out only with a black pencil, though by the hand of Raphael. *Watts's Logic.*

2. To plan, by giving the first or principal notion.
 The reader I'll leave in the midst of silence, to contemplate those ideas which I have only *sketch'd*, and which every man must finish for himself. *Dryden's Duress.*

SKEWER. *n. f.* [*skere*, Danish.] A wooden or iron pin, used to keep meat in form.

Sweet breeds and collops were with *skewers* prick'd
 About the sides. *Dryden's Iliad.*

From his rug the *skewer* he takes,
 And on the stick ten equal notches makes. *Swift.*

Once may overlook,
 A *skewer* sent to table by my cook. *King.*

Send up meat well stuck with *skewers*, to make it look round;
 and an iron *skewer*, when rightly employed, will make it look handfomer. *Swift's Directions to the Cook.*

TO SKEWER. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To fasten with skewers.

SKIFF. *n. f.* [*skuffe*, French; *scapha*, Lat.] A small light boat.

If in two *skiffs* of cork, a loadstone and steel be placed within the orb of their activities, the one doth not move, the other standing still; but both steer into each other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

In a poor *skiff* he pass'd the bloody main,
 Choak'd with the slaughter'd bodies of his train. *Dryden.*

On Garrway cliffs
 A savage race by shipwreck fed,
 Lie waiting for the founder'd *skiffs*,
 And strip the bodies of the dead. *Swift.*

SKILLFUL. *adj.* [*skill* and *full*.] Knowing; qualified with skill; possessing any art; dexterous; able.

His father was a man of Tyre, *skillful* to work in gold and silver. *2 Chron. ii. 14.*

They shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are *skillful* of lamentation, to wailing. *Amos v. 16.*

Will Vaser is *skillful* at finding out the ridiculous side of a thing, and placing it in a new light. *Taiter.*

Say, Stella, feel you no content,
 Reflecting on a life well spent;
 Your *skillful* hand employ'd to save
 Despairing wretches from the grave:
 And then supporting with your store
 Those whom you dragg'd from death before. *Swift.*

Instructors should not only be *skillful* in those sciences which they teach; but have skill in the method of teaching, and patience in the practice. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

SKILLFULLY. *adv.* [from *skillful*.] With skill; with art; with uncommon ability; dexterously.

As soon as he came near me, in fit distance, with much fury, but with fury *skillfully* guided, he ran upon me. *Sidney.*

Ulysses builds a ship with his own hands, as *skillfully* as a shipwright. *Broome.*

SKILLFULNESS. *n. f.* [from *skillful*.] Art; ability; dextrousness.

He fed them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the *skillfulness* of his hands. *Psalms lxxviii. 72.*

SKILL. *n. f.* [*skil*, Islandick.]

1. Knowledge of any practice or art; readiness in any practice; knowledge; dexterity; artfulness.

Skill in the weapon is nothing without fact. *Shakespeare.*

You have
 As little *skill* to fear, as I have purpose
 To put you to't. *Shakespeare.*

Of nothing profits more
 Than self-esteem grounded on just and right,
 Well manag'd; of that *skill* the more thou know'st,
 The more she will acknowledge thee her head. *Milton.*

I will from wondrous principles ordain
 A race unlike the first, and try my *skill* again. *Dryden.*

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Phocion the Athenian general, then ambassador from the state, by his great wisdom and *skill* at negotiations, diverted Alexander from the conquest of Athens, and restored the Athenians to his favour. *Swift.*

2. Any particular art.
 Learned in one *skill*, and in another kind of learning unskillful. *Houder.*

TO SKILL. *v. n.* [*skilia*, Islandick.]

1. To be knowing in; to be dextrous at.
 They that *skil* not of heavenly matter,
 All that they know not, envy or admire. *Spenser.*

The overseers were all that could *skill* of instruments of music.

One man of wisdom, experience, learning, and direction, may judge better in those things that he can *skil* of, than ten thousand others that be ignorant. *Whitgift.*

2. [*Skilia*, Islandick, signifies to distinguish.] To differ; to make difference; to interest; to matter. Not in use.

Whether the commandments of God in scripture be general or special, it *skilleth* not. *Holter.*

What *skill* it is, if a bag of stones or gold
 About thy neck do drown thee? raise thy head,
 Take stars for money; stars there to be told,
 By any art: yet to be purchas'd.

None is so wasteful as the scraping dame,
 She loathes three for one; her soul, rest, fame. *Holter.*

He intending not to make a summer business of it, but a resolute war, without term prefixed, until he had recovered France, it *skilled* not much when he began the war, especially having Calais at his back where he might winter. *Bacon.*

SKILLED. *adj.* [from *skill*.] Knowing; dextrous; acquainted with.

Of these nor *skilled* nor studious. *Milton.*

Moses, in all the Egyptian arts was *skill'd*,
 When heav'nly power that chosen vessel fill'd. *Penham.*

He must be very little *skill'd* in the world, who thinks that a voluble tongue shall accompany only a good understanding.

SKILLLESS. *adj.* [from *skill*.] Wanting art. Not in use.

Nor have I seen
 More that I may call men than you:
 How features are abroad I'm *skillful* of. *Shakespeare.*

Jealously what might befall your travel,
 Being *skillful* in these parts; which to a stranger
 Unguided and unfriended, often prove
 Rough and unwholesome. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*

Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
 Mischapen in the conduct of them both,
 Like powder in a *skillful* soldier's flask
 Is set on fire. *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*

SKILLET. *n. f.* [*skellet*, French.] A small kettle or boiler.

When light-wing'd toys
 Of feather'd Cupid foil with wanton dullness
 My speculative and offic'd instruments,
 Let house-wives make a *skillet* of my helm,
 And all indign and base advertities
 Make head against my estimation. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

Break all the wax, and in a kettle or *skillet* set it over a soft fire. *Mortimer's English.*

SKILT. *n. f.* [A word used by *Cleaveland*, of which I know not either the etymology or meaning.]

Smeytymus! ha! what art?
 Syriack? Or Arabick? Or Welsh? What *skilt*? *Cleaveland.*

Ape all the bricklayers that Babel built.

TO SKIM. *v. a.* [properly to *seum*, from *seum*; *seume*, French.]

1. To clear off from the upper part, by passing a vessel a little below the surface.

My coz Tom, or his coz Mary,
 Who hold the plough or *skim* the dairy,
 My fav'rite books, and pictures sell. *Prior.*

2. To take by skimming.

She boils in kettles must of wine, and *skims*
 With leaves the dregs that overflow the brims.
 His principal studies were after the works of Titian, whole
 cream he has *skimm'd*. *Dryden's Duress.*

The surface of the sea is covered with its bubbles, while it rises, which they *skim* off into their boats, and afterwards separate in pots. *Addison.*

Whilome I've seen her *skim* the cloated cream,
 And press from spongy curds the milky stream. *Gay.*

3. To brush the surface slightly; to pass very near the surface.

Nor seeks in air her humble flight to raise,
 Content to *skim* the surface of the seas. *Dryden.*

The swallow *skims* the river's watry face.
 A winged eastern blast just *skimming* o'er
 The ocean's brow, and sinking on the shore. *Prior.*

4. To cover superficially. Improper.

Dang'rous flats in secret ambush lay,
 Where the false tides *skim* o'er the cover'd land,
 And scamen with dissembled depths betray. *Dryden.*

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TO SKIM. *v. n.* To pass lightly; to glide along.
 Thin airy shapes o'er the furrows rise,
 A dreadful scene! and *skim* before his eyes. *Addison.*

When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight to throw,
 The line too labours, and the words move slow;
 Not so when swift Camilla scours the plain,
 Flies o'er the unbending corn, and *skims* along the main. *Pope.*

Such as have active spirits, who are ever *skimming* over the surface of things with a volatile spirit, will fix nothing in their memory. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

They *skim* over a science in a very superficial survey, and never lead their disciples into the depths of it. *Watts.*

The boat, light *skimming*, stretch'd his oary wings. *Thomf.*

SKIMBLESKAMBLE. *adj.* [A cant word formed by reduplication from *skamble*.] Wandering; wild.

A couching lion and a ramping cat,
 And such a deal of *skimblefamble* stuff,
 As puts me from my faith. *Shakespeare.*

SKIMMER. *n. f.* [from *skim*.] A shallow vessel with which the scum is taken off.

Wash your wheat in three or four waters, stirring it round; and with a *skimmer*, each time, take off the light. *Mortimer.*

SKIMMILK. *n. f.* [*skim* and *milk*.] Milk from which the cream has been taken.

Then cheese was brought: says Slouch, this e'en shall roll;
 'Tis *skimmilk*, and therefore it shall go. *King.*

SKIN. *n. f.* [*skind*, Danish.]

1. The natural covering of the flesh. It consists of the *cuticle*, outward skin, or scarf skin, which is thin and insensible, and the *cutis*, or inner skin, extremely sensible.

The body is confuted to nothing, the *skin* feeling rough and dry like leather. *Harvey on Consumptions.*

The priest on *skins* of offerings takes his ease,
 And nightly visions in his slumber sees. *Dryden's Æn.*

2. Hide; pelt; that which is taken from animals to make parchment or leather.

3. The body; the person.

We meet with many of these dangerous civilities, wherein 'tis hard for a man to save both his *skin* and his credit. *L'Estr.*

TO SKIN. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To flay; to strip or divest of the skin.

The beavers run to the door to make their escape, are there entangled in the nets, seized by the Indians, and immediately *skinned*. *Ellis's Voyage.*

2. To cover with the skin.

It will but *skin* and film the ulcerous place,
 Whilst rank corruption, mining all within,
 Infects unseen. *Shakespeare.*

Authority, though it err like others,
 Has yet a kind of medicine in itself,
 That *skins* the vice o' th' top. *Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.*

The wound was *skinned*; but the strength of his thigh was not restored. *Dryden.*

It only patches up and *skins* it over, but reaches not to the bottom of the sore. *Lake.*

The last stage of healing, or *skinning* over, is called cicatrization. *Sharp's Surgery.*

3. To cover superficially.

What I took for solid earth was only heaps of rubbish, *skinned* over with a covering of vegetables. *Addison.*

SKINK. *n. f.* [Jrcene, Saxon.]

1. Drink; any thing potable.

2. Pottage.

Scotch *skink*, which is a pottage of strong nourishment, is made with the knees and sinews of beef, but long boiled: jelly also of knuckles of veal. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

TO SKINK. *v. n.* [Jrcenean, Saxon.] To serve drink. Both noun and verb are wholly obsolete.

SKINKER. *n. f.* [from *skink*.] One that serves drink.

I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapt even now into my hand by an under *skinker*; one that never spake other English in his life, than eight shillings and six pence, and you are welcome, fir. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

Hang up all the poor hop-drinkers,
 Cries old Sym, the king of *skinkers*. *Ben. Johnson.*

His mother took the cup the clown had fill'd;
 The reconciler bowl went round the board,
 Which, empty'd, the rude *skinker* still restor'd. *Dryden.*

SKINNED. *adj.* [from *skin*.] Having the nature of skin or leather's hard; callous.

When the ulcer becomes foul, and discharges a nasty ichor, the edges in process of time tuck in, and, growing *skinned* and hard, give it the name of callous. *Sharp's Surgery.*

SKINNER. *n. f.* [from *skin*.] A dealer in skins.

SKINNINESS. *n. f.* [from *skinny*.] The quality of being skinny.

SKINNY. *adj.* [from *skin*.] Consisting only of skin; wanting flesh.

Her choppy finger laying
 Upon her *skinny* lips. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

Least the asperity of these cartilages of the windpipe should hurt the gullet, which is tender, and of a *skinny* substance, these annular gristles are not made round; but where the gul-

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let touches the windpipe, there, to fill up the circle, is only a soft membrane, which may easily give way. *Roy on the Creation.*

His fingers meet
 In *skinny* films, and shape his oary feet. *Addison's Ovid.*

TO SKIP. *v. n.* [*scittire*, Italian; *esquiver*, French.] I know not whether it may not come from *scapes*.

1. To fetch quick bounds; to pass by quick leaps; to bound lightly and joyfully.

Was not Israel a derision unto thee? Was he found among thieves? For since thou spakest of him, thou *skippedst* for joy. *Jer. xlviii. 27.*

The queen, bound with love's powerful charm,
 Sat with Pigwigen arm in arm:
 Her merry maids, that thought no harm,
 About the room were *skipping*. *Drayton.*

At spur or switch no more he *skipt*,
 Or mended pace, than Spaniard whipt. *Hudibras.*

The earth-born race
 O'er ev'ry hill and verdant pasture stray,
 Skip o'er the lawns, and by the rivers play. *Blackmore.*

John *skipped* from room to room, ran up stairs and down stairs, peeping into every cranny. *Arbutn. Hist. of J. Bull.*

Thus each hand promotes the pleasing pain,
 And quick sensations *skip* from vein to vein. *Pope's Dunciad.*

The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,
 Had he thy reason, would he *skip* and play? *Pope.*

2. To pass without notice.

Pope Pius II. was wont to say, that the former popes did wisely to fet the lawyers a-work to debate, whether the donation of Constantine the Great to Sylvester of St. Peter's patrimony were good or valid in law or no; the better to *skip* over the matter in fact, whether there was ever any such thing at all or no. *Bacon's Apophthegms.*

A gentleman made it a rule, in reading, to *skip* over all sentences where he spied a note of admiration at the end. *Swift.*

TO SKIP. *v. a.* [*esquiver*, French.] To miss; to pass.

Let not thy sword *skip* one:
 Pity not honour'd age for his white beard;
 He is an usurer. *Shakespeare's Timon of Athens.*

Although to engage very far in such a metaphysical speculation were unfit, when I only endeavour to explicate fluidity, yet we dare not quite *skip* it over, lest we be accused of over-seeing it. *Boyle.*

They who have a mind to see the issue may *skip* these two chapters, and proceed to the following. *Burnet.*

SKIP. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A light leap or bound.

He looked very curiously upon himself, sometimes fetching a little *skip*, as if he had said his strength had not yet forsaken him. *Sidney.*

You will make so large a *skip* as to cast yourself from the land into the water. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*

SKIPJACK. *n. f.* [*skip* and *jack*.] An upstart.

The want of shame or brains does not presently entitle every little *skipjack* to the board's end in the cabinet. *L'Estr.*

SKIPKENNEL. *n. f.* [*skip* and *kennel*.] A lackey; a footboy.

SKIPPER. *n. f.* [*schipper*, Dutch.] A shipmaster or shipboy.

Are not you afraid of being drowned too? No, not I, says the *skipper*. *L'Estrange.*

No doubt you will return very much improved. — Yes, refined like a Dutch *skipper* from a whale-fishing. *Congreve.*

SKIPPET. *n. f.* [Probably from *skiff*.] A small boat.

Upon the bank they sitting did espy
 A dainty damsel, dressing of her hair,
 By whom a little *skippet* floating did appear. *Fairy Queen.*

SKIRMISH. *n. f.* [from *ys* and *carm*, Welsh, the shout of war: whence *ysgarm*, and *ysgarmes*, old British words. *Maes a n nu* 'sgarmes a wnan, says an ancient writer. *Esgarmache*, French.]

1. A slight fight: less than a set battle.

One battle, yes, a *skirmish* more there was
 With adverse fortune fought by Cartimand;
 Her subjects most revolt. *Philips's Briton.*

2. A contest; a contention.

There is a kind of merry war betwixt signior Benedick and her: they never meet but there's a *skirmish* of wit. *Shakespeare.*

These *skirmishes* expire not with the first propugners of the opinions: they perhaps began as single duellers; but then they soon have their partisans and abettors, who not only enhance, but entail the feud to posterity. *Decay of Piety.*

TO SKIRMISH. *v. n.* [*esgarmacher*, French; from the noun.] To fight loosely; to fight in parties before or after the shock of the main battle.

Ready to charge, and to retire at will;
 Though broken, scatter'd, fled, they *skirmish* still. *Fairfax.*

A gentleman volunteer, *skirmishing* with the enemy before Worcester, was run through his arm in the middle of the biceps with a sword, and shot with a musket-bullet in the same shoulder. *Wife's Surgery.*

I'll pass by the little *skirmishings* on either side. *Atterbury.*

SKIRMISHER. *n. f.* [from *skirmish*.] He who skirmishes. *Ans.*

TO SKIRRE. *v. a.* [This word seems to be derived from *scap*, Saxon, pure, clean; unless it shall be rather deduced from *sciglaw*.] To scour; to ramble over in order to clear.